



## UNDP / Global Fund Project November Update: HIV Awareness Month

*November 2019*

Under the Global Fund grant, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) continues to support efforts to end tuberculosis and HIV in Kyrgyzstan. Our work consists in providing best quality and free drugs for all patients on treatment and in need, improving diagnosis, organizing education and prevention activities, supporting NGOs, communities and patients. Here's an update of our November activities.

UN agencies and partners **award community members**, medical professionals and journalists for their **efforts to end HIV**



Communities play a key role in the fight against HIV. This is what highlighted the global slogan for World AIDS Day 2019: **“Communities make the difference”**.

On November 28th, the Republican AIDS Center along with UN agencies (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNDP, WHO) awarded active members of the HIV-affected communities, medical professionals and journalists for their contribution to the fight against HIV in the Kyrgyz Republic.



1 - Jenty Kirsh-Wood, Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic

*«I couldn't agree more with this slogan. **Community members are the ones on the field carrying out prevention activities and helping to stop the epidemic.** They are the ones supporting people diagnosed with HIV, sharing their own experiences and giving examples. They are the ones giving hope to others and showing that with treatment, it's possible to live a beautiful life, even with HIV,»* said Jenty Kirsh-Wood, Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic at the press-conference. She highlighted that HIV is a top priority for the UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic and globally.

The UNDP, under the Global Fund grant, supports 15 NGOs working with people living with HIV and other key groups.

Since the beginning of 2019, more than **30,000 people** benefited from prevention activities, and **2,462 HIV positive people** received help.

Read more:

<https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/11/community-es-play-a-key-role-in-the-fight-against-hiv.html>

## More than **1,300 people** tested for HIV



In November, the Republican AIDS Center together with the UNDP and other partners conducted a free and rapid HIV testing campaign in Bishkek, Tokmok, Osh and Kara-Suu. As a result, **1,365 people were tested** and 4 of them had a positive result.



*2 - HIV testing on Alamedin market, Bishkek.*

The UNDP provided 2,000 rapid tests, branded jackets, and hot meals for the volunteers from sub-recipient NGOs. Year round, the UNDP purchases best quality tests for rapid HIV diagnosis in the country.

Since the beginning of the year, **14 853 people were tested for HIV** in the country.

## Stories from the shelter: giving people **a chance to beat HIV**



The UNDP / Global Fund Project together with UNAIDS finances **two shelters for people living with HIV**, in Bishkek and Osh. These temporarily welcome people who have nowhere to go, no food to eat and no place to take their treatment. The shelters help them get back on their feet, find a job, get documents and go on with their lives.





*“Most of the people who stay here don’t have anything: no home to go back to, no family or friends, no passport... Even their mothers abandoned them. So who else will help them, except for us?”* says one of the employees.

Read the full story here:

<https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/articles/2019/11/-stories-from-the-shelter-getting-stronger-than-hiv-.html>

## The UNDP releases an **educational video on HIV**

For World AIDS Day, the UNDP released a **short animated video** in Russian and Kyrgyz to give important information on HIV.

Watch the video in Russian <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXlaOHNpw74&feature=youtu.be>

Watch the video in Kyrgyz <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phagqxpCsFI&feature=youtu.be>

## The UNDP and partners review the **future of TB care**



On November 21st, national and international partners working in tuberculosis (including the National TB Center and medical workers, USAID, KNCV) discussed the future of TB care. The UNDP raised the issue of **extending case management activities** for patients with drug-resistant forms of TB. So far, this patient-centered approach has shown great efficiency. In Bishkek, only 3% of patients gave up on treatment in 2019, whereas these rates reached around 20% previously. More efforts to provide patients with social, financial and psychological help need to be undertaken to ensure that every patient completes their treatment.







Partners also discussed the possibility to treat patients with the **new BPaI regimen** starting 2020, a shorter treatment for patients with drug-resistant TB. The treatment includes new drugs recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), takes six months only and 90% less pills than previously.

## Ten NGOs trained to **help and protect TB patients**



One of the key tools of the “End TB” strategy is to create a **strong coalition of civil associations**. Ten NGOs actively working with the HIV community followed a four-day training, from November 12-15 on tuberculosis.

Within the Global Fund catalytic funding, the workshop aimed to give all necessary tools to these NGOs to **understand TB, diagnose and support patients, and protect their rights**. It was led by national TB specialists and civil society activists.

Participants were satisfied to learn all key information on TB diagnosis, prevention and treatment, and were happy to share their concerns with medical workers. *“Before we didn’t understand why patients received their particular treatment scheme, and we couldn’t know where there was a violation of their rights. Now we’ll be able to support patients better and defend their rights when needed,”* said one of the participants. NGOs play a very important role in accompanying patients throughout treatment and contributing to end TB.

## Women with HIV face discrimination and violence



The Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (EWNA), with support of the UNDP and UNFPA, released a survey among women living with HIV. It showed that these **women suffer from a high level of violence due to their HIV positive status.**

Partners discussed conclusions from the survey and what steps to take in order to protect women with HIV.

## Women living with HIV suffer from a high level of discrimination and violence

**71%** suffered from psychological violence

**63%** suffered from financial violence

**52%** suffered from physical violence

**25%** suffered from sexual violence

*“We look forward to supporting civil society and governments in further protecting the rights of women living with HIV who have experienced violence, and in addressing the HIV epidemic,”* said Jenty Kirsch-Wood, Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Read more:

<https://www.kg.undp.org/content/kyrgyzstan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/11/women-living-with-hiv-suffer-from-a-high-level-of-violence.html>

## The UNDP and partners discuss **progress of Catalytic Funds implementation**



On November 4th, the UNDP and its partners implementing catalytic funds activities (government organizations, medical workers, UNAIDS, NGOs, national networks, and others) discussed the progress and bottlenecks in the implementation of the Global Fund grant on prevention, treatment and care for HIV and TB.

The UNDP also shared with partners the **results of the implementation of catalytic funds activities in 2019**, and participants talked about plans and needs for 2020. The UNDP / Global Fund Project will provide an in-depth analysis of achievements of matching funds indicators at the next meeting.

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